

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Community Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 2, 2014

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### Human Relations Commission Recognizes Ramadan

(Bel Air, MD) - - The Harford County Human Relations Commission is recognizing the month of Ramadan, and along with Harford County's Muslim community, is inviting neighbors to join in a fast-breaking dinner (iftar) on Saturday, July 19, 2014, 8:30 p.m. at Masjid Al-Falaah (Harford County Education Society), 3014 Philadelphia Road, Abingdon. Members of the Human Relations Commission are excited about the opportunity to celebrate and learn from our neighbors.

Based on the movements of the moon, months in the Islamic calendar begin with the appearance of the first crescent of the new moon. This calendar includes no leap year adjustments making it about 11-12 days shorter than the solar calendar. A result is that Ramadan migrates through the annual seasons taking about 33 years and 5 days to finish a 12-month move through the calendar.

Throughout the month of Ramadan, Muslims around the globe join in fasting (refraining from eating and/or drinking) during the daylight hours and prayers. This month-long fast is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Additionally, during this season, Muslims share in spiritual reflection, forgiving others, restoring and building family ties, and doing away with bad habits.

The Human Relations Commission is a 15-member volunteer advisory board appointed by the County Executive with the approval of the County Council. Members serve coterminous with the County Executive representing all of the County's population. The Commission meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month. These sessions are free and open to the public. Those interested in attending the meetings are asked to contact the Office of Human Relations at 410-638-4739 or [humanrelations@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:humanrelations@harfordcountymd.gov).

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*"Preserving Harford's past. Promoting Harford's future."*